

well illustrated. Appendix B was unfortunately misbound in the review copy, but we trust this to be an error not repeated in the rest of the edition.—*Rudolf Hirsch, University of Pennsylvania Library.*

## State Author Headings

*Author Headings for the Official Publications of the State of Wisconsin.* By Ruth Lillian Whitlock Jackson. Chicago: American Library Association, 1954. 211p. \$5.

*Author Headings for the Official Publications of the State of Oklahoma.* Compiled by Ruth Fulton Cramer; revised and extended by Carolyn Curtis Mohr. Chicago: American Library Association, 1954. ix, 114p. \$3.85.

Two volumes have been added to the series of state author headings published by the American Library Association. Earlier lists provide headings for Alabama (Markley), Louisiana (Foote) and Wyoming (Fischer). Like the Markley volume, the new additions are based on theses for the master's degree at the University of Illinois Library School. Despite its belated publication, the Wisconsin list was the first such compilation to be undertaken at the school in 1941.

The theoretical utility of listing author headings for official state publications lies in the difficulty of determining the legal form of an agency name. The compiler of such a list seeks to establish agency names authoritatively by systematically combing state laws, blue books, bibliographies of state publications, and similar sources. Any cataloger who has scanned the fine print of session laws to verify the name of a minor state agency can appreciate the boon of having the task done for him. Reference librarians, too, will find use for such tools in their own work.

The Wisconsin list covers agencies of the territorial government from 1836 to 1848 and the state government from 1848 to 1951. It offers about 1,000 author headings together with some 1,500 cross references. The Oklahoma list covers agencies of the territorial government from 1890 to 1907 and the state government from 1907 to 1953. It gives some 444 author headings with approximately 1,270 cross references. Both lists include numerous see-also references.

Of the two, the Oklahoma list seems to be the sounder piece of work. As the foregoing figures suggest, its proportion of cross references to headings more nearly conforms to the terrible necessity of providing catalog access to government publications. Even more important, it avoids useless proliferation of headings.

The Wisconsin list is unrestrained. It strives to give a heading for every subdivision of the main state departments, even though, admittedly, subdivision names are seldom established by law. As a result, it provides 64 different forms for each of two headings: WISCONSIN. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION; and WISCONSIN. STATE CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT. The heading WISCONSIN. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. ADMINISTRATIVE DEPARTMENT has 21 subdivisions. Most of them transcend the bounds of cataloging propriety. What collection of state documents would ever require the heading WISCONSIN. PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION. ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT. INFORMATION DEPARTMENT. MAIN OFFICE SECTION? As a practical matter, few libraries use corporate entries in more than three parts unless they want the heading to wag the card.

The compilers of the Oklahoma list wisely chose to exclude headings for "temporary bodies appointed to complete a specific function, as construction of a building, where no publications were issued and the agency obviously no longer functions" (p. vi). In the Wisconsin list one finds:

WISCONSIN. AGENT TO PROCURE A BLOCK OF MARBLE OR GRANITE TO BE PLACED IN THE NATIONAL MONUMENT AT THE CITY OF WASHINGTON.

WISCONSIN. BOARD TO HEAR, TRY AND DETERMINE COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE FAILURE OF RAILROADS TO MAKE CONNECTIONS AT JUNCTIONAL POINTS WITHIN THIS STATE.

WISCONSIN. COMMISSIONERS TO PROCURE TO BE PUBLISHED SO MUCH OF THE DOCUMENTARY HISTORY OF THIS STATE AS HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR PUBLICATION BY WILLIAM R. SMITH.

We learn that the governor was the block-buying agent, that Mr. Smith's book was in fact published, but there is nothing to reveal whether train service was ever improved. All this makes charming reading, but it seems unlikely that these fleeting agencies would

have issued publications under such top-heavy designs.

This raises the practical point: do such lists really make a contribution, or are they merely the by-products of "busy work"? It may be argued that even if they are in the latter category, the results are possibly useful and should be made available. All well and good, but part of the \$5.00 price tag on the Wisconsin list is due to the padding-out of headings. Each library must assess the value of these lists for itself, weighing the advantages against the drawbacks. Librarians need not be reminded that, an Oklahoma heading to the contrary, there is no Santa Claus Commission.—*John Rather, School of Library Service, Columbia University.*

## Cambridge Publishing

*The Evolution of Cambridge Publishing.* By S. C. Roberts. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1956. 67 p. \$2.75.

Unlike the editors of *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, those Cantabrigians who guide the Sandars Lectures in Bibliography are well aware that bibliography is neither confined to the history or description of books and manuscripts, nor to lists of writings. During the past decade, this distinguished lecture series has offered sound and varied fare, including studies of manuscripts, incunabula, and the book trade as well as John Carter's penetrating comments on tendencies in book collecting. *The Evolution of Cambridge Publishing*, the latest to be published, again reminds us of this breadth of interest, for it concerns the history of publishing rather than the history of books.

Although the university press at Cambridge has printed books since the sixteenth century, its publishing activities are fairly recent. In this volume of the Sandars Lectures for 1954, S. C. Roberts, master of Pembroke College and formerly secretary to the syndics of the press, presents a broad survey of publishing at Cambridge. Each of the three lectures is devoted to a particularly important period: the revival of the press under Richard Bentley about 1700, the increased attention to publishing in the second half of the nineteenth century, and some significant developments of the twentieth century. The first two

lectures supplement the author's *History of the Cambridge University Press* (1921) where the material on early publishing lacked the information provided by manuscripts since discovered and where the material on modern publishing was, with proper delicacy, subordinated. Thus, the earlier book discusses works published or printed at the beginning of the eighteenth century with occasional references to the curators' minute-books; in the present volume, cash accounts are analyzed to show production costs. The "sad story of the publication of the *Suidas Lexicon*" (1705), in which, unwillingly, "the Curators were for the first time faced with the problems and responsibilities of a publisher," is here told in detail.

The master of Pembroke then turns to the nineteenth century, discussing efforts to maintain the press on a profitable basis before considering the important publication projects: *Arabia Deserta*, the Revised Version, the Pitt Press series of textbooks, the *Cambridge Modern History*, and lesser works. These are reviewed in a rather cursory fashion; no attempt is made to supply detailed information about production costs, number of copies sold, or even the editorial policies. Instead, emphasis is placed upon the growth of the publishing business conducted by the press, citing changes in organization as well as in kinds of books published.

The final lecture describes "a few, only a few, features of the development of Cambridge printing and publishing in the present century." But the few chosen are probably the most interesting: the syndics' experience with an American promoter in the publication of the eleventh edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, the typographical renaissance under Bruce Rogers and Stanley Morison, and the success of the press in publishing textbooks as well as occasional best-sellers. When one remembers that, during part of this period, the author was secretary to the syndics, it is disappointing to find comparatively little new information. A less objective, more personal approach might have provided a better insight into the evolution of Cambridge publishing at that time. However, now that this study has been completed, it is to be hoped that an autobiographical account will be prepared. Certainly there is much more to tell.